

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-17.

Add new claims 18-39 as follows:

--18. A method of arresting the propagation of a buckle in a rigid pipe, wherein the rigid pipe comprises an outer wall which has an external diameter, an inner wall inside the outer wall and an annular space defined between the outer and inner walls, the method comprising:

5 installing two sealing blocks axially spaced apart in the annular space which are adapted to seal the annular space and which define a region bounded between the two sealing blocks, the sealing blocks having radially opposite faces in contact respectively with the outer and inner walls, the sealing blocks being placed in the annular space so that the axial length of the region is at least equal to 0.5 times the external diameter of the outer wall;

10 placing a curable compound in the region; and curing the compound in the region.

(3) 19. The method of claim 18, further comprising after installing the sealing blocks and placing and curing the compound, winding the rigid pipe.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the axial length of the region is in the range of 0.5 to 2 times the external diameter of the outer wall.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein each of the sealing blocks is comprised of radially deformable material which projects radially when compressed axially and which is deformable to the shape of the inner and outer walls.

22. The method of claim 21, further comprising installing a rigid bearing plate to bear against at least one lateral side of each of the sealing blocks.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the bearing plate has a radial dimension that is less than the radial dimension of the annular space.

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24. The method of claim 23, wherein the outer wall has an inner surface and the inner wall has an outer surface; and the bearing plate is fastened to the outer surface of the inner wall, the bearing plate has a radially outer free edge and is so dimensioned as to define a gap between the free edge of the bearing plate and the inner surface of the outer wall.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the bearing plate is made of metal.

26. The method of claim 21, wherein the sealing block has a radial dimension less than the radial dimension of the annular space when the sealing block is installed into the annular space;

subsequent to the introduction of the sealing block in the annular space, radially expanding the sealing block to bring its radially opposite faces into tight contact with the opposed inner surface of the outer wall and outer surface of the inner wall.

27. The method of claim 18, wherein the curable compound is an epoxy resin.

28. The method of claim 18, wherein there is an injection orifice through the outer wall into the region; and

the method further comprises injecting the curable compound into the region through the orifice in the outer wall.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the curable compound is a thermosetting compound.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein the curable compound is curable at room temperature.

31. The method of claim 29, further comprising initially reeling the rigid pipe in a reel, unreeling the rigid pipe from the reel, introducing the curable compound into the region after the pipe has been unreeled, and heating the region to accelerate the curing of the curable compound.

32. The method of claim 18, further comprising initially reeling the rigid pipe in a reel, unreeling the rigid pipe from the reel, introducing the curable compound into the region after the pipe has been unreeled, and heating the region to accelerate the curing of the curable compound.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein heating the region comprises passing the region of the pipe through a heater.

34. The method of claim 33, further comprising straightening the pipe before heating the region to cure the compound.

35. The method of claim 34, further comprising straightening the pipe in straighteners in a pipe laying vessel and heating the region of the pipe in a heater mounted after the straightener on the vessel on the path of movement of the pipe and moving the pipe from the wound reel through the straighteners and past the heater.

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36. The method of claim 18, wherein the curable compound has a pot life in the range of a few minutes to a few weeks.

37. The method of claim 18, further comprising introducing the curable compound into the region, thereafter winding the pipe onto a receiving reel; and at a site for use of the pipe, unwinding the wound pipe from the reel.

38. The method of claim 37, wherein the curable compound is introduced into the region while the pipe is on land, and the winding of the pipe on a reel is winding it onto a pipe-laying vessel, and further comprising transporting the wound reel on the vessel to the site for laying of the pipe.

39. The method of claim 34, wherein the curable compound is injected into the region after the pipe has been straightened.